



Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2009

Summary

Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (10):

David Redpath, proxy for Amy Stuart (Administrative Office of the Courts)

Steve Gendler (Arizona Department of Public Safety)

David Choate, proxy for Charles Katz (Arizona State University)

Michael Dolny (Arizona Department of Corrections)

Christopher Emge, proxy for Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)

Katherine Guffey (Arizona Department of Economic Security)—via conference call

Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)—via conference call

Meena Shahi (Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, First Things First), via conference call

Zeenat Mahal (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)

Phillip Stevenson, Chair (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (7)

James Cunningham (University of Arizona)

Catherine Osborn (Arizona Department of Education)

Gowri Shetty (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Wesley Kortuem (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)

Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services)

Dennis Embry (Paxis Institute, Inc.)

Governor's Office Staff (2)

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP)

Keri Raichert (GOCYF, DSAP)

Public (1):

Gail Spore (Arizona Department of Public Safety)



Call to Order was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:15 p.m. after noting that a quorum was present.

Welcome and Introductions

Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Stevenson referred attendees to the previous minutes and asked attendees to review. Steve Gendler motioned to approve the minutes as written; David Choate seconded. Motion passed with no objections.

Announcements

- Mr. Stevenson called for announcements.
 - Jeanne Blackburn noted that the Save-the-Date card for the 4th Annual Arizona Substance Abuse Conference would be sent out shortly and additionally referred members to the ASAP calendar of events found in their packets.
 - Mr. Stevenson encouraged members to attend public meetings, including the ASAP meetings found on the calendar of events.
- Zeenat noted that the AZENet conference is quickly approaching. Ms. Blackburn noted that she, in addition to other Epi members, would be in attendance.
 - The conference will focus on cost-benefit analysis.
- David Choate reminded members of the upcoming ASU Prisoner and Reentry Conference.
 - The conference will address critical issues and trends.
- Zeenat Mahal noted that there are plans in the works for a data roundtable regarding substance abuse as it relates to motor vehicle crashes that is expected to occur toward the end of July or the beginning of August.
 - She will provide the group with more information as she receives it.

Tribal Data Capacity Project, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

- Zeenat Mahal presented to the group on the Tribal Data Capacity Project funded through Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families, Division for Substance Abuse Policy. The purpose of the grant is to assist tribal communities to assess their data collection systems and determine their data infrastructure and reporting capacity and to offer technical assistance to these tribal communities to help build this capacity.
 - Thus far, 11 tribes of the 19 surveyed have responded to the ITCA survey regarding tribal data capacity.



Transition Updates, including ASAP & Its Subcommittees

- Jeanne Blackburn provided an update on the transition, noting that Dr. Kim O'Connor accepted a position with the Department of Homeland Security in D.C. as Counselor to the Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement.
 - Melissa Lempke has been named as the Interim Director. Ms. Lempke also serves as the Director of the Division for Community Relations, within Governor Brewer's Office for Children, Youth and Families.
- Jeanne noted that ASAP would be meeting March 25, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the Executive Tower, and would be chaired by Kevin Tyne, Governor Brewer's Chief of Staff. Ms. Blackburn noted that there will be several changes to the ASAP meetings, including encouraging membership participation and increased communication between ASAP and the subcommittees.
 - Communication will be fostered by proposed changes to the subcommittee chair positions; these changes will likely be formalized at the next ASAP meeting.
 - The Methamphetamine Task Force (proposed chair is Anthony Coulson, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Tucson District Office, Drug Enforcement Administration);
 - The Underage Drinking Prevention Committee (proposed chair is Dr. Laura Nelson, Acting Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services);
 - The Workforce Development Committee (proposed chair is Duce Minor, Executive Director, Prevention Provider – Parker Area Alliance for Community Empowerment);
 - The Community Advisory Board (proposed co-chairs are Mary Specio-Boyer, Community Health Director, COPE Behavioral Services, Inc., Pima County Meth Free Alliance and Duce Minor, Executive Director, Prevention Provider – Parker Area Alliance for Community Empowerment); and
 - The Co-occurring Policy Advisory Team (proposed chair is Dr. Kellie Warren, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
 - Phillip Stevenson will remain the chair of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group; and
 - Dr. Dennis Embry will remain the chair of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee.
 - These two subcommittees of ASAP are unique in their membership composition. Phillip Stevenson is the holder of the Arizona Youth Survey data, a major contribution to the knowledge of substance abuse prevalence and consequences among our state's youth and is an expert in data analysis and data-driven decision making. Dr. Dennis Embry is a nationally-recognized prevention expert.



- Jeanne also noted that potential changes to Epi membership will be made based on several factors:
 - Attendance and participation. Membership will be examined to determine which agencies need to be encouraged to participate or if someone else within their agency is a better fit for the group or has more time to devote to its goals.
 - As a requirement of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG), Epi was originally established with a focus on prevention. However, as a means of institutionalizing Epi to ensure it continues to serve Arizona after the SPF SIG ends, the membership has been changed to include professionals from the substance abuse treatment and enforcement fields. Potential membership additions will include federal representatives from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure collaboration between community, state and federal data holders.
 - Potential changes to membership for Emerging Issues were also noted. Specifically, treatment providers and a member(s) of the recovery community should be added to the group to ensure that these areas are represented at the table.
- Mr. Stevenson noted that the work of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group will likely stay the same. However, should the direction of the administration change, so too might the direction of the Epi Work Group shift.
 - Ms. Blackburn noted Epi's influential role in ASAP's past and current strategic focus areas.

2009 Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile: Updates and Data Submission Process

- Ms. Blackburn referred members to the 2009 Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile Indicators document in their packets, noting the different data contributions by each organization/agency.
- Jeanne mentioned that the 2009 Epi Profile would be completed by Bach Harrison and noted that one anticipated change is the addition of a NOMS section, for use by substance abuse community coalitions.
- Ms. Blackburn requested that members review indicators and provide comments and questions related to their agency's contribution.
- David Choate asked Jeanne to clarify the format and timeframe for data submissions.
 - Ms. Blackburn noted that the data should be reported in the manner that the agency collects information...i.e., fiscal year or calendar year, etc., inclusive of calendar year 2008.
- Ms. Blackburn noted that fall of 2009 would be a realistic goal for completion and release of the 2009 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*.



Data Gap: Adult Prevalence Data Collection

- Ms. Blackburn reminded the group of its identification of the lack of adult prevalence data as a gap that is still in need of attention. She stated that it may be possible to utilize federal funds to add adult prevalence questions to the St. Luke's Health Initiative survey for 2010.
 - It was noted that there are some standardized questions that may be important to include, making the survey comparable to data from other states.
 - Ms. Blackburn noted that the St. Luke's Health Initiative makes their data publicly available to inform public policy, which would allow the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group to continue to contribute to the understanding of substance abuse consumption and consequences in Arizona.

Data-Driven Policy Decisions EAB Action Item: Discussion and Review of Possible Strategies for Institutionalizing the Collection and Maintenance of Available Substance Use/Abuse Information

- Ms. Blackburn noted that the group needs to identify how Jeanne's role will be institutionalized when SPF SIG funding dollars end to ensure that the group work is coordinated and facilitated.

Call to Public

Call to the public was made, with no comments from the guests in attendance.

Adjourn at 3:06 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by David Choate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mahal. Motion passed with no objections. Reminder was provided that the next meeting will be held on April 15, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Room 145 at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission building at 1110 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).